PRAYER

Fajr	5.59
Zuhar	12.44
Asr	4.38
Maghreb	6.12
Isha	7.28

Starting time in Karachi

REFLECTIONS

"WHEN THIS WORLD FAVORS SOMEBODY, IT LENDS HIM THE ATTRIBUTES, AND SURPASSING MERITS OF OTHERS AND WHEN IT TURNS ITS FACE AWAY FROM HIM IT SNATCHES AWAY EVEN HIS OWN EXCELLENCES AND FAME."

— HAZRAT ALI (A.S.)

78AH427

Striking artworks impress art lovers

By Peerzada Salman

SOME of the artworks displayed at the exhibition.—Fahim Siddiqi / White Star

KARACHI: It is so reassuring to see a new breed of painters and sculptors coming up who, apart from striving for technical prowess, choose subjects for their artworks that are socially relevant and uninhibited with regard to their personal predicaments.

To gauge the veracity of this claim, even a fleeting visit to the Arts Council of Pakistan's Ahmed Parvez Gallery would suffice where the three-day thesis display of the third and fourth-year fine art and textile design students of the council's School of Visual and Performing Arts concluded on Friday.

Each piece was worth spending some time with. In all, works of 13 students were exhibited. The fine art students were: Faha Shabi, Taha Abbas, Zehra Ali, Asim Naqvi, Ramsha, Hafsa Ramzan, Areege Malik, Sundus Tariq, Jagdish Kumar and Yusra Khan; whereas Sani Zehra, Urwa Hasnayn and Maria represented the textile department.

Now let's come to the topics. They range from the historicity of architecture to an individual's placement in the modern world full of emotional and physical challenges. The young artists deal with them with a great deal of maturity. This maturity stems from their ability to understand, perhaps instinctively, that art has the power to communicate ideas and reach areas where thoughts aren't always easily communicable. Add to this the intensity of the feeling that moves along with these thoughts without which no art can have meaning.

For example, one of the youngsters focuses on the 'interplay between heritage and innovation' using geometrical shapes as his medium to put across how he perceives the whole exercise in the contemporary context. Then another employs family history with an emotional connect through the art of sculpting. As a result, the viewer gets to see eye-catching fiber glass pieces. Mention must also be made of a series of painting in which a young female creative soul has used her sister as a model to come up with striking exhibits denoting psychological challenges.

Good stuff!

WOW Festival begins with focus on women's achievements, challenges

Sherry Rehman calls for expanding Pakistani women's political, economic space

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The 10th edition of the Women of the World (WOW) Festival Pakistan began on Saturday to celebrate women's achievements, foster dialogue and address the challenges they face.

The two-day event was organised by the British Council, in partnership with the WOW Foundation, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Entrepreneurship and Community Development Institute (ECDI), at the Beach Luxury Hotel, where a large number of women, girls and families attended the programme.

Senior politician and Vice President of the Pakistan Peoples Party Senator Sherry Rehman was the keynote speaker under the topic "Expanding Women's Space in a Decade of Resilience and Climate Challenges."

She called for a decisive expansion of women's political, economic, and social space, warning that climate change, inequality, and weak implementation of laws continue to disproportionately affect women and girls across Pakistan.

Senator Rehman began by drawing attention to what she termed the "feminisation of injustice."

"In every disruptive frontline — conflict, pandemic, climate catastrophe, or digital warfare — women and children are disproportionately harmed. And the harm is not always collateral. Far too often, it is deliberate," she said. "Many of us have come to realise that if there is one thing the traditional 'rights of man' project still strategically tolerates, it is the universality of the feminisation of injustice," she said.

She reminded the audience that women's rights have never been granted through benevolent democratic evolution. "Even in the oldest democracies, women secured the right to vote only after force-feeding, imprisonment, and public vilification. Pakistan's own women's movement, which peaked at the turn of the last century, faced arrests, lashings, and systemic indignities under authoritarian laws," she said, noting that these laws were only partially reversed when Benazir Bhutto's party, and later other democratic forces, came to power.

Turning to gender parity as unfinished business, Senator Rehman said that since the Beijing Platform for Action was signed by 189 governments in 1995, progress has remained deeply uneven. "The United Nations tells us that at current global trends, gender parity in political leadership is still 130 years away," she said.

She underscored that women constitute 49.2 per cent of Pakistan's population, yet their political representation stands at just 17pc, despite women contributing nearly 50pc of parliamentary work. "This is a clear gap between contribution and authority," she said, adding that at the global level, women hold only 27.2pc of parliamentary seats, and only 29 countries currently have women heads of government.

Addressing economic participation, she said Pakistan's female labor force participation rate remains at 22.7pc, even though women make up 45% of the agricultural workforce. "Yet women own only 2pc of agricultural land. This is a structural injustice that limits economic empowerment and decision-making," she said, adding that 72pc of water collection in Pakistan is carried out by women and girls, significantly increasing their unpaid labor burden.

Highlighting the scale of gender-based violence, she revealed that 32,617 cases have been registered nationwide, yet only 5pc of perpetrators are convicted, while 64pc of cases are dismissed. Nearly 70pc of incidents go unreported due to fear, stigma, and lack of institutional trust.

Senator Rehman also spoke extensively on the gendered impacts of climate change, stating that women and girls are the most affected during climate disasters. Referring to the 2022 floods, she said 1,000 health facilities were destroyed, disrupting services for 650,000 pregnant women, while economic stress pushed 18pc more girls into early marriage.

Calling for systemic reform, she urged mandatory gender analysis in all public policies, the use of gender-disaggregated data, and the meaningful inclusion of women in climate policy formulation and resource allocation. She emphasized that men and boys must be partners in achieving gender equality.

Suspected extortionist killed in 'encounter'

KARACHI: A suspected criminal booked in two murder cases over non-payment of protection money in Karachi and Peshawar was gunned down in an encounter on Saturday, police said.

Special Investigation Unit (SIU) SSP Dr Mohammed Imran Khan said that acting on a tip-off, the SIU conducted a raid in the Ibrahim Hyderi area. The suspect resorted to firing on the law enforcers and in an ensuing exchange of gunfire, Ghani Rehman alias Abdul Ghani, was gunned down. One pistol and a cell phone were recovered from his custody.

The police have obtained his criminal record. He, along with his accomplices, had gunned down a trader in Banaras over non-payment of extortion money in January 2023. He was also involved in an extortion-related murder in Gulshan-i-Maymar in 2022.

Meanwhile, a huge fire erupted in a factory in Nazimabad on Saturday, officials said.

The blaze was controlled by over half a dozen fire tenders after hectic efforts. No one was reported hurt in the incident.

Rescue-1122 spokesperson Hassaan Ul Haseeb Khan said that the fire broke out in a factory near Zubaida Masjid, Nazimabad-4. The building was partially damaged by the blaze. Its exact cause and the estimation of loss could not be made yet, he added. —Staff Reporter

A memorable evening with Iftikhar Arif

KARACHI: Lovers of Urdu poetry had a wonderful time at the Arts Council of Pakistan's Haseena Moin hall on Friday evening as the council's President Ahmed Shah sat down with distinguished Urdu poet Iftikhar Arif for a conversation at an event titled *Aitraf-i-Kamal.*

Mr Shah began the discussion by asking the poet about his frequent migrations [from Lucknow to Karachi, to London, from London to Islamabad and Iran, and then back to Islamabad] and the city that is one of the subjects of his poetry.

Mr Arif replied his movement from Lucknow to Pakistan could be called an act of migrating, the rest was necessitated for different reasons. He argued, when someone leaves a dwelling, it doesn't necessarily imply migration. He said he has often been asked why he writes verses such as:

Tamam khana badoshon mein mushtarak hai ye baat
Sab apne apne gharon ko palat ke dekhte hain
[All nomads have the following in common:
They keep looking back at their homes]

Mr Arif said, "I have never romanticised the process. I was born not in an affluent environment. I remain a frightened man. I had certain ambitions. There are things that I couldn't accomplish in life but for those that I was able to achieve, I must be thankful.

"Anyone who says he doesn't remember the place where he was born, he would be lying. You remember the place where you saw the light of day or where your parents or grandparents are buried or where you spent your childhood."

He said he came to Pakistan in 1965 and when people inquire him about that, he says that if he was born in 1943 or 1944, he couldn't have walked all the way to Pakistan [it would have taken time].

Mr Arif also mentioned the problems of those who live in broken homes, adding he was raised by his maternal grandfather.

The programme took an exhilarating turn when the poet was requested to recite his poems. He treated the audience to several of his popular ghazals and a nazms, most of which some attendees knew by heart. One of the ghazals was:

Jaisa hun waisa kyun hun samjha sakta tha main
Tum ne puchha to hota batla sakta tha main
Asuda rehne ki khwahish maar gai warna
Aage aur buhat aage tak ja sakta tha main
Kahin kahin se kucch misre, ik aadh ghazal, kucch sher
Is punji per kitna shor macha sakta tha main
[I could have made you understand why I am the way I am
If only you had asked, I could have explained
The wish to be content nibbled at my soul
Otherwise, I could have progressed ahead
Some lines, a few ghazals, a few verses —
What could I have gained with such earnings?]
—By Peerzada Salman

Pact inked to upgrade National Museum

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The Federal Ministry of National Heritage and Culture and Aga Khan University (AKU) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to upgrade the National Museum of Pakistan.

A ceremony in this respect was held at the AKU campus on Friday, which was attended by Aurangzeb Khan Khichi, the federal minister for national heritage and culture, officials representing the AKU and the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) and other stakeholders.

"By revitalising the national museum, we are not just preserving artefacts; we are creating a world-class centre of learning and inspiration that will showcase Pakistan's rich history to the world and foster a deeper sense of unity and connection among our citizens," the minister said.

The project aims to upgrade the museum through a comprehensive programme of institutional strengthening, with a focus on curatorial enhancement, public engagement and improved stewardship of the museum's collections. The partners seek to support the museum's role in preserving, presenting and sharing Pakistan's cultural heritage with wider and more diverse audiences.

To oversee these efforts, an advisory committee has been established, co-chaired by Vice Provost AKU Prof Anjum Halai and Director General of Archaeology and Museums Amanullah.

"Museums play an important role in education in society through promoting an understanding of one's culture and heritage," noted Mr Halai in his remarks.

Under the partnership, AKU and other agencies of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) will provide strategic, technical, and advisory support to the upgradation of the national museum.

The project will bring together the history faculty of AKU's Faculty of Arts and Sciences, historians at AKU's Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilizations in London, and AKU's Department of Archives in a focused scholarly collaboration.

Astronomer stirs curiosity about genesis of life

Continued from Page 13

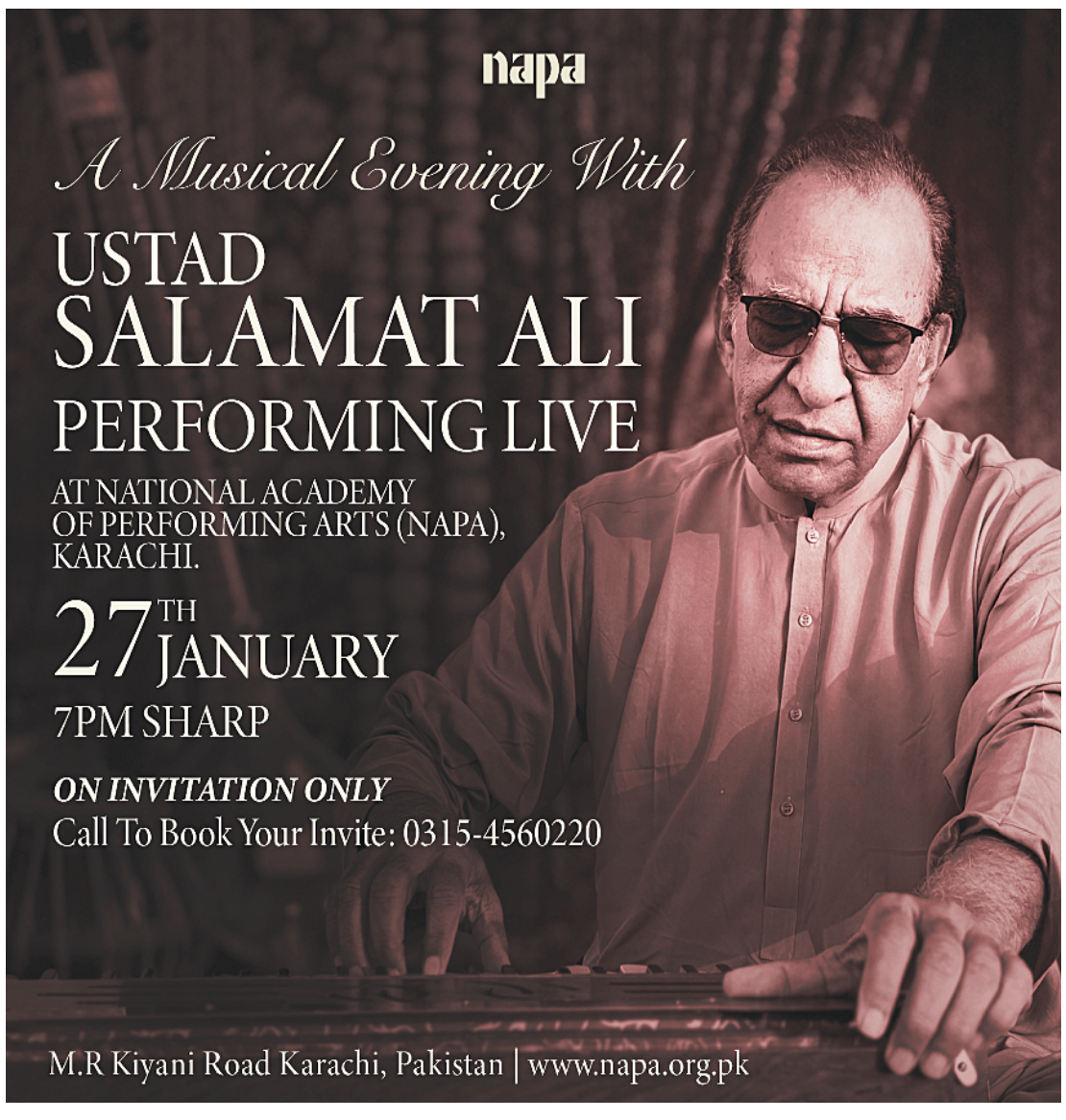
Europa, Ganymede and Callisto — that the Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei had first seen, he said that one of them, Europa, had no craters. "It may be because of the ice there," he said. "Under that ice there is a sea and under the sea there are volcanoes. Therefore, all the conditions of earth are there," he said.

Concluding his talk, Dr Hameed urged people to just look upwards at the sky. "Curiosity is a fundamental right and the sky is available to everyone," he reminded.

Earlier, Chairman of Getz Pharma, Khalid Mahmood, spoke about the need for a centre of vocational and scientific training focusing on the development of skills and critical thinking for the industry.

He said that vocational centres here usually focus on plumbing, electrical or mechanical training but he set up the SANG Centre for the facilitation of education, performing arts, critical thinking and industrial skills.

He also highlighted the Zindagi Trust and Durbeen, set up by singer and social worker Shehzad Roy and his educationist wife Salma Alam, respectively, which share a similar goal of advancing education in Pakistan.



BEFORE: MR.MUHAMMAD AHSAN KHAN DURRANI (JUDGE)
IN THE BANKING COURT-IV, AT KARACHI
Block-48/A, Pakistan Secretariat, Saddar, Karachi
Suit No. 01 of 2026

JS BANK LIMITED,
Through Its Duly Authorised Officer at its Principal Office Shaheen Commercial Complex Dr. Ziauddin Ahmed Road Karachi.....**Plaintiff**
Versus
MR. HASAN KARIM S/o M FAZAL KARIM
House No.111-B, Mehmodabad No I, Karachi.....**Defendants**

To,
The above-named Defendant

WHEREAS the above-named Plaintiff has instituted a Suit against you Under Section 9(1) of the Financial Institutions (Recovery of Finances) Ordinance, 2001 (XLVI of 2001) for Recovery of **RS. 411,860.32 ALONG WITH COSTS OF FUNDS TILL THE REALIZATION OF THE WHOLE AMOUNT** You are hereby summoned to obtain leave from this Court within 30 (thirty) days from the date of first service hereof to defend the Suit. In default of your doing so, the allegations of fact in the plaint shall be deemed to be admitted and this Court may pass a Decree in favor of the Plaintiff on the basis thereof.

Leave to appear may be obtained on an application in the form or written statement containing a summary of substantial questions of law as well as facts in respect of which evidence needs to be recorded.

Returnable by 9th day of FEBRUARY, 2026 at 8:30am before the Banking Court-IV at Karachi.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on 20th of JANUARY 2026.

BY ORDER
READER,
BANKING COURT-IV KARACHI

BEFORE: MR.MUHAMMAD AHSAN KHAN DURRANI (JUDGE)
IN THE BANKING COURT-IV, AT KARACHI
Block-48/A, Pakistan Secretariat, Saddar, Karachi
Suit No. 02 of 2026

JS BANK LIMITED,
Through Its Duly Authorised Officer at its Principal Office Shaheen Commercial Complex Dr. Ziauddin Ahmed Road Karachi.....**Plaintiff**
Versus
MR. SADD SULTAN AHMED S/o SULTAN AHMED Flat No 406, Sahil, Promenade, Clifton Block 03 Karachi.....**Defendants**

To,
The above-named Defendant

WHEREAS the above-named Plaintiff has instituted a Suit against you Under Section 9(1) of the Financial Institutions (Recovery of Finances) Ordinance, 2001 (XLVI of 2001) for Recovery of **RS. 421,191.76 ALONG WITH COSTS OF FUNDS TILL THE REALIZATION OF THE WHOLE AMOUNT** You are hereby summoned to obtain leave from this Court within 30 (thirty) days from the date of first service hereof to defend the Suit. In default of your doing so, the allegations of fact in the plaint shall be deemed to be admitted and this Court may pass a Decree in favor of the Plaintiff on the basis thereof.

Leave to appear may be obtained on an application in the form or written statement containing a summary of substantial questions of law as well as facts in respect of which evidence needs to be recorded.

Returnable by 9th day of FEBRUARY, 2026 at 8:30am before the Banking Court-IV at Karachi.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on 20th of JANUARY 2026.

BY ORDER
READER,
BANKING COURT-IV KARACHI

BEFORE: MR.MUHAMMAD AHSAN KHAN DURRANI (JUDGE)
IN THE BANKING COURT-IV, AT KARACHI
Block-48/A, Pakistan Secretariat, Saddar, Karachi
Suit No. 11 of 2026

JS BANK LIMITED,
SHAHEEN COMMERCIAL COMPLEX DR ZIAUDDIN AHMED ROAD, KARACHI THROUGH ITS DULY AUTHORISED ATTORNEY.....**Plaintiff**
Versus
MUHAMMAD JUNAID S/O ABDUL HAMEED,
RESIDENT OF HOUSE NO. 3/33, MANIYA COOPERATIVE HOUSING SOCIETY, KHALID BIN WALEED ROAD, KARACHI.....**Defendants**

To, The above-named Defendants

WHEREAS the Plaintiff above-named has instituted a Suit against you Under Section 9(1) of the Financial Institutions (Recovery of Finances) Ordinance 2001 (XLVI of 2001) for Recovery of **RS. 962,711.59 ALONG WITH PROFITS / RENTALS, COST OF FUNDS, CHARGES, COSTS, TILL THE REALISATION OF THE WHOLE AMOUNT.** You are hereby summoned to obtain leave from this Court within 30 (thirty) days from the date of first service hereof to defend the Suit In default of your doing so, the allegations of fact in the plaint shall be deemed to be admitted and this Court may pass a Decree in favor of the Plaintiff on the basis thereof.

Leave to appear may be obtained on an application in the form of written statement containing a summary of substantial question of laws as well as facts in respect of which evidence needs to be recorded.

Returnable by 23rd day of FEBRUARY, 2026 at 8:30 am before the Banking Court-IV at Karachi.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on 20TH of JANUARY, 2026.

BY ORDER
READER,
BANKING COURT NO. IV KARACHI

BEFORE: MR.MUHAMMAD AHSAN KHAN DURRANI (JUDGE)
IN THE BANKING COURT-IV, AT KARACHI
Block-48/A, Pakistan Secretariat, Saddar, Karachi
Suit No. 03 of 2026

JS BANK LIMITED,
Through Its Duly Authorised Officer at its Principal Office Shaheen Commercial Complex Dr. Ziauddin Ahmed Road Karachi.....**Plaintiff**
Versus
MR. AHTISHSAM AHMED S/o ABDUL REHMAN House No 16, Prince Avenue Garden West Block D Karachi.....**Defendants**

To,
The above-named Defendant

WHEREAS the above-named Plaintiff has instituted a Suit against you Under Section 9(1) of the Financial Institutions (Recovery of Finances) Ordinance, 2001 (XLVI of 2001) for Recovery of **RS. 332,451.43 ALONG WITH COSTS OF FUNDS TILL THE REALIZATION OF THE WHOLE AMOUNT** You are hereby summoned to obtain leave from this Court within 30 (thirty) days from the date of first service hereof to defend the Suit. In default of your doing so, the allegations of fact in the plaint shall be deemed to be admitted and this Court may pass a Decree in favor of the Plaintiff on the basis thereof.

Leave to appear may be obtained on an application in the form or written statement containing a summary of substantial questions of law as well as facts in respect of which evidence needs to be recorded.

Returnable by 9th day of FEBRUARY, 2026 at 8:30am before the Banking Court-IV at Karachi.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on 20th of JANUARY 2026.

BY ORDER
READER,
BANKING COURT-IV KARACHI